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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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USA Patent Application
Rocco Mertsching, et al
REAR-VIEW MIRROR FOR A VEHICLE,
WITH A REFLECTIVE SURFACE

Priority: German Patent Application
100 52 751.5 filed October 25, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application simultaneously with filing as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

UNNUMBERED PAGE 12

Cancel the page containing the Abstract and replace it with the new Abstract attached hereto on a separate page.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, Line 9, before this line, after the title, insert the following paragraph heading:

--FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

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Page 1, Line 32, before this line insert the following paragraph
heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, Line 18, before this line insert the following paragraph
heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 3, Line 1, before this line insert the following paragraph
heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--

IN THE CLAIMS

(APPLICATION PAGES 10-11)

Lines 6-7, delete this title paragraph "Rear-view mirror ... surface"

Before claim 1, change "Patent claims" to --WE CLAIM:--

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute the following claims 8-14 therefor:

8. (new) Rear-view mirror for a vehicle, with a reflective surface (1), wherein the reflective surface (1), at least in a sub-area, has a display (3) with a reflective background, the display (3) being capable of displaying text symbols or pictograms.

9. (new) Rear-view mirror according to claim 8, further comprising a distance measuring system which, at least in a rear space of the vehicle, registers distance between the vehicle and an object located in the environment of the vehicle quantitatively, the distance measuring system displaying a measured distance in the display (3) integrated into the reflective surface (1).

10. (new) Rear-view mirror according to claim 8, wherein the display (3) is constructed as a liquid-crystal display, the liquid-crystal display being backed by a reflective film (12) which, on a side facing the liquid-crystal display, possesses reflective characteristics and is virtually opaque there, while, from a side facing away from the liquid-crystal display, the film (12) lets light through in order to illuminate the liquid-crystal display.

10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

11. (new) Rear-view mirror according to
claim 10, wherein the reflective film (12) has a polarizing
effect for light.

12. (new) Rear-view mirror according to
claim 8, wherein the display (3) is constructed as a transparent,
self-luminous display.

13. (new) Rear-view mirror according to
claim 8, wherein all electronic components needed to operate the
display (3) are arranged in a control electronics (14) in a
housing of the rear-view mirror, the control electronics (14)
including a programmable data processing unit and a data
interface to connect the data processing unit to a data bus
system arranged in the vehicle.

14. (new) Rear-view mirror according to
claim 8, wherein the display (3) is constructed as a pixel-
oriented liquid-crystal display, which is regulatable, by means
of a data processing unit arranged in the rear-view mirror, in
conjunction with at least one light-sensitive sensor (4) arranged
in the reflective surface (1), with effect that a reflective film
(12) placed behind the liquid-crystal display is darkenable by
activating pixels of the liquid-crystal display in event of
interfering reflections of external light.

R E M A R K S

This amendment is requested to be entered simultaneously with filing this application.

Claims 1-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and claims 8-14 are presented therefor which have the same subject matter of claims 1-7, respectively, and present the claims in accordance with USA practice under 35 USC 112 and eliminate multiple-dependent form claims.

No multiple-dependent claims exist in this application as of the filing date and no multiple-dependent claim fees apply.

The specification has also been amended for formal improvement to comply with USA practice.

An Abstract is presented on a separate page herewith.

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the claim fees and prior to an action on the merits, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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by: _____

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Abstract

In order to develop a rear-view mirror for a vehicle, with a reflective surface, in such a way that the rear-view mirror can firstly provide the driver of the vehicle with depth information based on a physical measurement, and is also capable of displaying further information which is important to the driver, without causing the driver to change viewing direction, the reflective surface (1) in a rear-view mirror, at least in a sub-area, is equipped with a display (3) with a reflective background, the display (3) being capable of displaying text symbols and/or pictograms. In this case, the reflective surface (1), in spite of the inserted information, is intended to remain usable over virtually the entire area for depicting objects located behind the vehicle, and also to require no built-on fittings on the rear-view mirror.

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